

THE FATSHAN INCIDENT.

According to most recent reports the Portuguese Consul at Canton has taken over the case in regard to the man charged with having caused the death of the Chinese passenger on board the S.S. Fatshan some three weeks ago. Little that is now is now forthcoming. According to one authority, the Portuguese Consul questions whether any evidence that is worth anything can be produced. On the other hand, the Viceroy has stated that in all cases in the past—and he quotes instances from Tientsin and other ports—where the native coroner has proved that wounds have been inflicted this fact has been considered decisive. The coroner proved to his own satisfaction, and apparently to that of the Viceroy, that there were wounds in this case. Probably, after a little more paper has been used in official correspondence, the matter will drop out of sight and be done with.

CAUGHT IN THE ACT.

The steward of the s.s. Janus during this month had been missing various sums of money amounting in all to \$60 and he determined to capture the thief in a novel way all his own. Being something of an electrician he bought an electric bell to his aid and fixed one end of the wire to the drawer in his cabin in such a manner as to admit of the drawer being opened about three inches, when the electric contact was formed and a bell at the other end of the wire in the mess-room was rung. The thief, one of the native crew, perfectly unconscious of his own doom, struggled with the drawer as it would neither open any further or admit of being closed and was perfectly astounded when the steward walked into the cabin in response to the alarm, and caught the thief in the act. At the Magistrate this morning, Mr. J. H. Kemp sentenced the native to three months' hard labour.

THE JAPANESE AMBASSADOR TO ENGLAND.

Mr. Kato Takahisa, O.C.M.G., now on his way to England as Japanese Ambassador, is a personal friend of Sir Edward Grey, the present Minister of Foreign Affairs. He has also many friends among the English statesmen in power as well as among those of the Opposition party, and is well posted in English politics. He is accompanied by Mrs. Kato, of whom Sir Claude Macdonald said, at the recent banquets of the British Society in Tokyo, "It may interest my hearers to know that when the Royal Family of England heard that Mr. Kato had been appointed as Japanese Representative in London, they expressed a desire that Mrs. Kato, whom they knew and liked so much, would accompany her husband. Anybody who has the proud privilege of knowing Mrs. Kato will agree with me when I say that she is a fitful, half-mad in her husband, and a lady endowed with the most gracious sweetness of character combined with a very great deal of common sense."

His Excellency and Mrs. Kato, who were introduced to a large number of Hongkong residents at the "At Home" given on board the N.Y.K. steamer Hirano Maru this afternoon by Vice-Consul and Mrs. Funatsu, dined at Government House this evening.

JAPANESE SHIPPING ENTERPRISE.

New Liner Arrives at Hongkong.

A further indication of the bold bid which the Japanese are making in shipping enterprise is afforded by the presence in the harbour of the new N.Y.K. twin screw steamer Hirano Maru, which is one of six sister liners built and building by the Kawasaki Shipbuilding Co., of Kobe and the Mitsubishi Dockyard, Nagasaki. This boat, which is constructed on the most modern lines, arrived yesterday, and is making her maiden voyage on the European service. She is of splendid design, and has been built in accordance with the Imperial Japanese Government shipbuilding encouragement law and is classified as 100 A1 at Lloyd's. The vessel is modelled on modern principles, with every convenience necessary for a first class passenger liner. The general comfort of passengers has been the chief thing kept in view throughout. There is accommodation for fifty-eight first class, twenty-eight second class, twelve special, and one hundred and forty steerage passengers; while there is also special accommodation for twenty-five first class and several third class passengers. All the cabins are neatly and costly fitted up, and the decorations and fittings are of the latest designs and of a first class nature. The saloon is a splendid apartment and is well lighted and ventilated. There are smoking rooms, social halls, drawing room, music room, barber's shop, dark room for amateur photographers, etc., and in addition there is a fully equipped surgery where all cases of sickness can be treated. The laundry, galley, pantries, bakery, etc., are models of what these things should be. The lavatories and baths, showers, etc., are also a feature of the vessel. She is fully supplied with fire-fighting appliances, life boats, rafts, bells, etc., and the latest designs of navigating instruments are carried. The boat which is built entirely of steel and has three decks, is also well designed for cargo purposes, having up-to-date appliances for the handling of heavy weights. She is lit throughout by means of electricity, and a couple of doing a speed of 16 knots per hour. Her tonnage is 8,770 tons, and the horse power is 7,300.

This afternoon Vice-Consul and Mrs. Funatsu were "At Home" on the vessel to meet H.E. the Japanese Ambassador to the Court of St. James and Madame Kato. There was a large company of guests.

REVIEWS.

The Gardens of England. Special Winter Number of the Studio, Price 5 shillings, 44, Leicester Square, London.

Last year the Studio published as its winter number a volume illustrating the gardens in the South and West of England; this year it continues the scheme by illustrating the beautiful examples of old English gardens to be found in the Midlands and the Eastern Counties. When one recalls that this section of the Kingdom embraces such lordly pleasure houses as Eaton Hall, Chatsworth, Welbeck Abbey, Clumber Park, Belvoir Castle, Strickland Park, Bronte Hall, Aske Castle, and Wress Park, as well as more modest haunts of ancient peace where names recall many a stirring page in English history, it will be seen that the editor's task has lain along very pleasant lines. That he has risen to the full level of his opportunities is seen in the extremely beautiful collection of pictures, some tinted, the great majority of course in black and white, which he has brought together. As he observes in his opening article, "British garden-making is, on the whole, full of legitimate interest and well worth studying on account of the illustrations it affords of an art which has a world-wide interest and a power of appeal to all classes of men." Our climate encourages the growth of a large number of trees and flowers which lend themselves perfectly to decorative purposes." One can linger for hours studying the pictures of these beautiful English gardens, yet some among them outrank the others and make a more lasting appeal by reason of what they suggest rather than by what they really contain. Among the coloured illustrations perhaps the most charming is that which pictures a September afternoon at Campesea Steps, Suffolk, though the Terrace and Steps at Eddon Hall, Derbyshire, or the Sundial at Rauscliffe, Leicestershire, are equally beautiful and less satisfying picture very closely in style of the gardener's art pass before our eyes in turning over the pages of this capital printed book and one and all bear witness to the fact that the country where they are found has long been a land of settled peace and quiet ways. May it be ever so happily blessed.

A Wandering Student in the Far East, by the EARL OF RONALDSHAY, M.I.

Edinburgh, Messrs Blackwood & Sons.

Lord Ronaldshay has produced a couple of most entertaining volumes, which mark him out as a man of keen observation and discriminating judgment entirely removed from the ordinary globe-trotting scribbler of the present day. He came to the Far East with the reputation of being an earnest student of men and things, and what he has recorded in his new book are clearly the impressions which China and Japan have made upon a sympathetic but cautious temperament. He made a trip right across China from Shanghai to Peking in the autumn and winter months of the year and on the whole seems to have enjoyed his experiences thoroughly. He went through the Yangtze gorges at half water and was therefore able to come to some conclusion regarding the possibility of steam navigation replacing the present system of tramping. Of course Mr. Little has steamed up, so have British and German gunboats, but Lord Ronaldshay does not see much prospect of commercial success attending the undertaking. The only way of opening up Western China is by the railroad and the present condition of Chinese public opinion there does not seem to be any possibility of these public conferences reaching Szechuan and beyond for many years to come. The problem of the approach to Yunnan by railways from the south, particularly from Burma, is also discussed and the immense difficulties in the way of the engineer satisfactorily explained. Incidentally he points out what a load of debt Mr. Doumer's impetuosity has hung upon France in his Yunnan railway scheme, a scheme devised to foist an English railway with projection existed entirely in French imagination. Like a traveller in China, Lord Ronaldshay is agreeably impressed with the mineral resources of the vast empire. There are in China, he says, possibilities before which the possibilities of Japan pale into insignificance. In her mineral wealth, in her national appetite for trade China stands at the opening of the twentieth century possessed of advantages which only require time, patience, and ability to exploit to place her among the foremost nations of the earth.

The first volume of "A Wandering Student in the Far East" is principally taken up with the description of the author's journey across China; a discussion of the subject of the navigation of the middle reaches of the Yangtze; just review of the intricacies of the opium question, (from which we quoted in a leading article last week); and the frontier questions arising between Burma and China. The second volume is mainly composed of a series of essays upon subjects of more especial interest to those who are themselves personally interested, either directly or indirectly, in the development of Far Eastern affairs. The traders, the politicians, the financiers, the merchants and manufacturers. Nine of thirteen chapters are devoted to a critical examination of Japan's place in the Far East, the remaining four being taken up with China's present attitude towards Europe, the railway question, and the future probable development of that problem. It will be seen that Lord Ronaldshay has made a very comprehensive survey of the Far East and on the whole his conclusions are very sound and infused with the strongest sense of commonsense. Summing up, however, as he sees it, "China for the Chinese, is as far as possible, a foreign country." Japan, he tells us, seeks "political power supported by military prestige, commercial and industrial supremacy in East Asia, a dominant voice in the destinies of the Eastern world." We can thoroughly recommend his book to all interested in China and Japan. Our only regret is that pressure on our space at this season absolutely forbids quotations from his "Lordship's" pages. The illustrations taken from Lord Ronaldshay's own photographs are particularly fine and much above the average.

SPORTING.

Ride Shooting.

In connection with the H.K.V.C. Infantry Company, practice shoots will be held at Tai Hang Range on Saturday, the 2nd January at 3.30 p.m., and on Sunday at 9.30 a.m. Range 200, 300, 500, and 600 yards if time permits. A European will be in charge of the Butter Ammunition cannot be obtained on the Range. It is desired to commence a competition for a cup kindly offered by Captain Wood, and it is hoped every member will be present at one, if not both, of these shoots, in order that handicaps can be arranged.

League Football.

There will be a League encounter at the Military Ground, Happy Valley, to-morrow between the R.G.A. and the R.A.M.C. The kick-off is timed for 3.30 o'clock.

THE MANILA CARNIVAL.

We have received a copy of an illustrated booklet which has been issued setting forth the more prominent features of the carnival which is to be held at Manila during the week from February 2nd to February 8th. The publication gives an interesting sketch of the chief points of interest in the Philippines Islands, and goes on to state that it has been decided by the Carnival Association that the great effort of the carnival of 1909 will be along industrial lines. Special effort is made to induce provinces to display their products, novelties, and other features of interest in the largest scale possible. The Association has induced foreign commercial houses to so arrange the itineraries of their travel agents in Manila during the carnival week and the week of industrial display and sale following. This will make it possible for the representatives of the foreign markets to come into close contact with the producing possibilities of the different sections of the Philippines Islands. In this way it will be possible for the products to gain just what class of goods the foreign market is interested in and for the foreign manufacturer to discover just what the producing possibilities of the Islands are. The industrial benefit to result from this feature alone can hardly be over-estimated, as it is a well known fact that one of the greatest weaknesses of the industrial situation in the Islands is the misdirection of effort which, if properly directed, would add millions to the annual possibilities of production.

The customary features will also be brought out in their most attractive form, while on Feb. 11th, 12th, and 13th, the second annual horse show, with 40 classes provided, will be held.

REFORMERS HUNTED DOWN.

It is reported that since the death of their Imperial Majesties, the Government of Peking have been sending telegrams to H. H. Chang of Canton, urging that greater exertions be put forth to search out and uproot the reformers. The Viceroy has re-issued these instructions to his subordinates, both civil and military, and they are putting forth vigorous efforts in order to arrest suspects. If successful these minor officials will, of course, be rewarded with more lucrative positions, which is an additional incentive. The reports say, however, that though many men have been arrested within the last six weeks, they are not really leading men among the Reformers, even if they belong to the party at all. It is said that during the time stated more than one hundred and forty arrests have been made, and these men are now under lock and key. In addition, others have been seized, but the former are supposed to be leaders among the Revolutionary party; the others are reckoned as so important for the present, though kept in custody. These suspects have been divided into six batches, and have been subjected to a military trial. But the reports assert that they were not fairly examined, and "have not been questioned as to the straight or the crooked," but have been forced into giving evidence, and so have been condemned. The military judge, one Ha, has suggested that as the prisoners are so many, it would be impolitic to bring them out together for punishment and has, therefore, confined with the Viceroy, as to the best step to take. He fears that if the men were all brought forth at one time, "for additional punishment," which means presumably, for execution, such a large number of prisoners would stir up the business people, and cause a great deal of trouble. The Viceroy therefore, after consulting with the Kwang-hsiang, issued orders that the men be sent in two gunboats, at two different times, and that they be handed over to the military authorities at Kung-poo, and Kung-tung. They are to be shut up in these barracks under guard, for the present. Apparently, however, all are doomed as far as reports indicate, and will be brought forth when the times are convenient and despatched. If this report of the trend of events is perfectly reliable, there would appear to be a reign of terror in Kwang-tung Province, for according to the correspondents, there is no reason to believe that all these prisoners are really revolutionaries in any strict sense of the term, though many may be sympathetic with the movement.

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BIRTHDAY OF GURU GOBIND SINGH JL.

The birthday of Sri Guru Gobind Singh Ji, Prophet of Sikh Religion, was celebrated by the Sikh community to-day at Sri Guru Singh Sabha, Happy Valley, with great solemnity. The procession accompanying Sri Guru Granth Sahib, the holy book of the Sikhs, started from the Central Police Station at noon and passed along Hollywood Road, down Lyndhurst Terrace, turning along Wellington Street to No. 5 Police Station, through Queen's Road Central, reaching the Sikh Temple about 2 o'clock, where the religious ceremony was performed and lectures in Hindustani on the Sikhism delivered. There was a large attendance.

SCOTTISH LETTER.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

EDINBURGH, November 27.

Lord Glenesk—"Borthwick of the Morning Post," as he was called for long after his promotion to the peerage, has many mourners all over the North. By birth he was a Scotman; he had a warm liking for the country and the people; and when he had to chose a title he took "Glenesk of Mid-Lothian." His grandfather was a labourer on the farm of Cornbank, near Penicuik. His son, Peter Borthwick, in early life kept an adventure school at Auchendron on the North Esk, and goes on to state that it has been decided by the Carnival Association that the great effort of the carnival of 1909 will be along industrial lines. Special effort is made to induce provinces to display their products, novelties, and other features of interest in the largest scale possible. The Association has induced foreign commercial houses to so arrange the itineraries of their travel agents in Manila during the carnival week and the week of industrial display and sale following. This will make it possible for the representatives of the foreign markets to come into close contact with the producing possibilities of the different sections of the Philippines Islands. In this way it will be possible for the products to gain just what class of goods the foreign market is interested in and for the foreign manufacturer to discover just what the producing possibilities of the Islands are. The industrial benefit to result from this feature alone can hardly be over-estimated, as it is a well known fact that one of the greatest weaknesses of the industrial situation in the Islands is the misdirection of effort which, if properly directed, would add millions to the annual possibilities of production.

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The Heart-Sniper, by Mary E. Mann.
The Governors, by E. Phillips Oppenheim.
The Vatians of Jordan, by Horace Amory.
The Gorgoeus Burg, by Justin Huntly McCarthy.

Silthaven, by W. W. Jacobs.
Halfway House, by Maurice Howlett.
Stolen Goods, by Wm. Le Queux.
Purple Love, by Morris Gerard.
The Anaesthetist Cross, by Fergus Hume.
The Climber, by E. F. Benson.
A Prince of Dreamers, by Flora Annie Steel.
Sir Richard Beauchamp, by Max Pemberton.
Rose in the Youth, by Maurice Howlett.
The Life Class, by Knightley Snowdon.
Fighting the Blades, by Bertam Mitford.
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TUESDAY, DECEMBER 29, 1908.

THE CHINA MAIL.

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DELTA.....	8000 Mar. 6	CHINA.....8000 April 3	April 10
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